



US006704713B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Brett**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,704,713 B1**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **\*Mar. 9, 2004**

(54) **COMPUTER CONTROLLED EVENT TICKET AUCTIONING SYSTEM**

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

(75) Inventor: **Kenton F. Brett**, Indianapolis, IN (US)

Cathay Pacific Airways auctions a Boeing 747-400 worth of seats in third Cybertraveler Auction; "Bid Now, Fly Later" In Online Ticket Auction. Business Wire—Apr. 29, 1996—4 pages.

(73) Assignee: **ITA Investments, LLC**, Indianapolis, IN (US)

(List continued on next page.)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 327 days.

*Primary Examiner*—Hani M. Kazimi  
*Assistant Examiner*—Alain L. Bashore

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Ice Miller; Russell E. Fowler, II

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An automated event ticket auctioning system receives and evaluates bid information records received from a plurality of remote terminals. The bid information records correspond to bids for one or more seats within a venue and corresponding to at least one particular event, wherein the venue has a plurality of sections, each section having a plurality of seats. The automated event ticket auctioning system includes a memory storing a plurality of previously accepted bid information records, the previously accepted bid information records each including identification information, section identification, quantity information and bid price information. The system further includes a central controlling computer operably connected to the memory. The central controlling computer is operable to first receive a message including a received bid information record from one of a plurality of remote terminals through a communication system. The received bid information record includes received identification information, received section identification, received quantity information, and received bid price information. The central controlling computer is further operable to determine a lowest minimum acceptable bid value corresponding to the received section information using the previously accepted bid information records stored in the memory, and store the received bid information record if a value represented by the received bid price information exceeds the lowest minimum acceptable bid value.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/586,927**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 5, 2000**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. PCT/US00/03136, filed on Feb. 7, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/862,547, filed on May 23, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,023,685.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/108,211, filed on May 23, 1996.

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 17/60**

(52) U.S. Cl. .... **705/37; 705/35; 705/26; 705/5**

(58) Field of Search ..... **705/35, 37, 38, 705/26, 5**

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

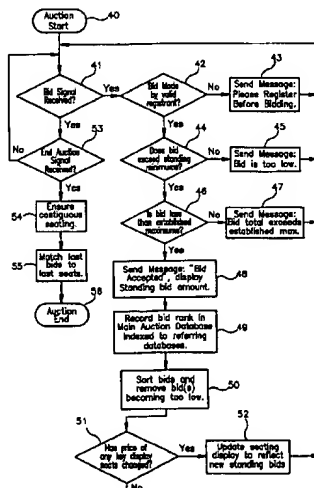
4,603,232 A 7/1986 Kurland et al. .... 179/2 AS  
4,788,643 A \* 11/1988 Trippe et al. .... 705/6

(List continued on next page.)

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

JP 5-266049 \* 10/1993

**18 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets**



US-PAT-NO: **6704713**

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6704713 B1

TITLE: Computer controlled event ticket auctioning system

----- KWIC -----

US Patent No. - PN (1):  
**6704713**

Detailed Description Text - DETX (5):

Referring again to FIG. 1, a master computer 11 is connected to the central computer 12 for purposes of setting up, initiating, monitoring and dismantling the auction, and its related sites or pages. For example, in preparation for an auction, numerous details specific to that auction, such as minimum initial bids, event and sponsor names, dates and times, and seating arrangements are generated using the master computer 11 and then transferred by disk or modem or

other means to the central computer 12 when needed. The central computer 12 stores these parameters for later application to the auction process. In particular, the central computer 12 stores in the seating database 17, the specific seating arrangement as a unique record for each seat available. The auction is then conducted by the central computer 12, as described below.

During the **auction**, the master computer 11 can be used to monitor the **auction** progress, make any necessary spontaneous **changes** to existing **parameters**, and to

generally ensure that the **auction** is conducted with a minimum of problems. In practice, it may be possible to combine the functions of the central computer 12 and the Master computer 11.